

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract on page 9 as follows:

Abstract

~~Proposed is a~~ A method of operating a gas discharge lamp, preferably a fluorescent lamp (10), in which the lamp is at least partly operated with a dc voltage component and voltage pulses are superimposed on that dc voltage component which can be reduced to zero. A power supply unit (11) for carrying out the method is designed in such a way that there are provided or connected a running voltage source (13) for supplying the dc voltage and a pulse source (12) for supplying the voltage pulses ~~are provided or can be connected~~.

~~(Figure 1)~~